

I CLAIM:

1. A shoelace fastener for a shoe, the shoe including a shoe body with a pair of eyelet tabs, and a shoelace strung on the eyelet tabs and having a pair of distal lace segments, said shoelace fastener comprising:

5 a fastener body formed with a pair of through holes that are arranged in a first direction, each of said through holes having a hole axis transverse to the first direction;

10 a pair of clamp members, each of which has a pivot portion pivotable relative to said fastener body about a respective pivot axis that extends in a second direction transverse to the first direction and the hole axes, said pivot portion of each of said clamp members partitioning the respective one of said through holes into a lace entry side and a lace exit side respectively proximate to and distal from the other of said through holes, each of said clamp members further having a clamp portion that extends from said pivot portion; and

15 a pull unit secured on and disposed externally of said fastener body;

20 whereby each of the distal lace segments is extendable through said lace entry side of a respective one of said through holes, over a respective one of said clamp members, and into said lace exit side of the respective one of said through holes;

whereby tension applied by the eyelet tabs upon the shoelace forces said clamp members to clamp the distal lace segments against said fastener body for maintaining a tightened state of the shoe; and

5 whereby a manual pulling force applied on said fastener body through said pull unit results in relative movement between said fastener body and at least one of said clamp members to permit sliding movement of at least one of the distal lace segments for loosening the
10 shoe accordingly.

2. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said fastener body has top and bottom sides, a pair of longer side walls that extend in the first direction between said top and bottom sides, and a pair of shorter
15 side walls that interconnect said longer side walls and that extend in the second direction,

said through holes being formed through said top and bottom sides of said fastener body,

20 said longer side walls having a pair of pivot axles that extend therebetween, said pivot portions of said clamp members being sleeved on said pivot axles, respectively.

25 3. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said clamp portion of each of said clamp members extends towards a respective one of said shorter side walls, each of said shorter side walls being formed with a lace notch that extends from said bottom side of said fastener

body.

4. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 2, wherein
said top side of said fastener body has a mounting portion
disposed between said through holes, said mounting
portion having an outer wall surface formed with at least
one retaining stud that pierces through said pull unit
and that is formed with an enlarged head for retaining
said pull unit on said mounting portion.

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5. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 4, further
comprising a covering band retained on said fastener
body for concealing said at least one retaining stud
on said mounting portion of said fastener body.

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6. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 4, wherein
said pull unit is an endless loop that cooperates with
15 the distal lace segments to form a double-bow
configuration.

7. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 4, wherein
said pull unit is made of the same material as the
shoelace.

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8. The shoelace fastener as claimed in Claim 1, further
comprising a fixing unit adapted for fixing one of the
distal lace segments on the respective one of said clamp
members.